



RESOLUTION

URGING THE CITY ADMINISTRATION TO DEVELOP A CONTINGENCY PLAN FOR TSUNAMI DEBRIS.

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2011, a 9.0 earthquake off the coast of Sendai, Japan, caused a large-scale discharge of debris into the ocean as a result of the tsunami that hit much of the northern coastline of Honshu Island; and

WHEREAS, University of Hawaii scientists estimate that the tsunami debris field is currently spread across an area roughly 2,000 miles long and 1,000 miles wide located between Japan and Midway Atoll, where debris may wash up in early 2012; and

WHEREAS, computer models indicate that between 5 to 20 million tons of tsunami debris could arrive on Hawaii's shores by early 2013; and

WHEREAS, tsunami debris poses significant potential health and safety issues for Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, urban debris washed to sea by tsunami waves may be contaminated with toxins that are characteristic for industrial centers and large cities; and

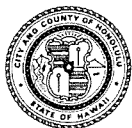
WHEREAS, if the tsunami debris does not sink or biodegrade, it can remain in the North Pacific area for many decades, potentially polluting Hawaii's beaches for years to come; and

WHEREAS, the Council believes it timely for the City to begin developing a contingency plan to deal with tsunami debris; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that the city administration is urged to develop a contingency plan for tsunami debris; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the contingency plan shall include, but not be limited to, plans for coordination with state and federal agencies, removal and disposition of tsunami debris, and assignment of city workers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the city administration is requested to transmit a progress report on the development of the contingency plan to the Council no later than 90 days after the adoption of this Resolution; and



RESOLUTION

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Mayor, the Governor, and Hawaii's congressional delegation.

INTRODUCED BY:

Tom Iker
H. J. Anderson
George M. Kaula
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DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

JAN 09 2012

Honolulu, Hawaii

Councilmembers